visited India recently to review the progress of two German-aided projects in India for the elimination of child labour;

(b) whether Government are aware of a marked slump in imports of carpets by Germany from India, in view of the German buyers' resentment of a large number of child labour engaged by Indian carpet industry; and

(c) whether as a part of this German-aided project, pre-project surveys have been completed in three child labour project areas namely; Carpet Industry (Mizapur-Bhadohi), Gemstone polishing (Jaipur) and Match Industry (Sivakasi) and if so, the summary of the survey reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no slump in imports of carpets by Germany from India.

(c) Two surveys on "Child Labour in The Carpet Industry in Mirzapur-Bhadohi" and "Child Labour in Gem Polishing Industry of Jaipur" were carried out by the International Labour Organisation, New Delhi as a preliminary activity of the German aided project "Child Labour Action & Support Programme". Both the surveys have analysed the nature of the specific industry, the reason for prevalance of child labour in the industry, strategy of special schools taken up under the National Child Labour Policy, etc.

Retrenchment of Workers under Exit Policy

355. **PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:**

(a) the number of workers retrenched or whose services were dispensed with **under the exit policy during the last three years including the current year;**

(b) what would be the number of fresh **employment in existing factories and new ones, if any;**

(c) whether Government have any plans to secure reinstatement of workers mentioned above; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) There is no policy in the Govt. which can be termed "Exit Policy". However in order to rationalise workforce central public sector undertakings have so far adopted Voluntary Retirement Scheme. According to the available information during the last 3 years namely, 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93, 78,562 employees have opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme in 100 central public sector undertakings.

The Govt. has established the National Renewal Fund to protect the interest of workers who may be affeced by technological transformation under the new Industrial Policy. One of the objectives of the National Renewal Fund is to provide assistance to cover the cost of retraining and redeployment of employees as a result of modernisation, technological upgradation and industrial restructuring.

The major thrust of the 8th Five Year Plan is on employment. The 8th Five Year Plan emphasises faster growth of sectors, sub-sectors and areas, which have relatively high employment potential. Faster growth of the small and decentralised manufacturing sector, expansion of infrastructure, development of rural non-farm sector, wasteland development, crop-wise diversified agricultural development, etc. are the basic elements of the employment oriented growth strategy envisaged in the Plan. The employment strategy is expected to generate 42.5 million additional employment opportunities during the period 1992—97. Of this, 6.5 million are expected to be generated in the manufacturing sector.

Provident Fund Scheme for Beedi Workers

356. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Provident Fund Scheme for Beedi Workers throughout the country;